

Lamar's Speech.

At the Democratic caucus for nominating the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar, a member of Congress from Mississippi, was made Chairman; and, on being conducted to his seat, took occasion to make a carefully considered speech. Coming from a member of his prominence and influence with his party, Mr. Lamar's utterances on that occasion must be taken as indicating the policy that the Democrats in Congress intend to pursue during the immediate future.

The speech was well conceived, and bears the impress of much thoughtful consideration. And most of all, among its many merits, are conspicuous the kindly temper, the tone of genial friendliness, and the ardent patriotism with which it abounds. If its spirit is well observed and its exhortations duly carried into practice, it will be found a gratifying herald of the "era of good feeling."

After returning the usual thanks for the distinction shown him, Mr. Lamar thus alludes to the position of the Democratic majority in the present House of Representatives:—

"We here are confronted with a crisis in the history of the Democratic party and of the country, which brings to our party great opportunities, but is at the same time freighted for us with solemn responsibilities, and if we do not improve these opportunities and rise to the measure of these responsibilities the fruits of the great political revolution which has brought us here to-day will be for us like the fruit which grows upon the accursed sea."

After alluding to the different functions of the other Departments of the Government, and the relations they sustain to the House of Representatives, he thus points out the duties the Democrats in the House have before them in regard to those Departments:—

"The people of the country have charged us—have charged the Democratic party in the House of Representatives with the important duty of bringing these co-ordinate branches of the Government to their just responsibility, and thus by an unerring instinct, or by a keen intelligence, they have blended together our duty, our interests, our inclinations."

On the matter of reform in the civil service of the country, the speaker gives unequivocal expression of the sentiment of his party, saying:—

"The people demand at our hands a sweeping and thorough reform, which shall be continued in a spirit that will secure the appointment to places of trust and responsibility of the honest, the experienced, and the capable."

Concerning the questions of the public expenditures of the Government, Mr. Lamar announces the determination of his party in the House to make a searching scrutiny. And that is just what needs to be thoroughly done. For, in the administration of public affairs, it is the love of money that is the root of all evil. On this point, Mr. Lamar says:—

"There is also an imperative demand that a vigilant examination be made into the administration of the public revenue of the country both in its collection and disbursement; that all the public accounts shall be scrutinized by us—as it is the solemn privilege and duty of this House to do—and that corruption be ferreted out, and wrong-doers, no matter how high or low, shall be fearlessly arraigned and fully exposed and punished."

On the vexed question of the tariff the speaker makes this exhibit of the Democratic policy:

"There is a growing and irresistible sentiment in the country that, under the specious theory of protecting and fostering particular industries and interests, a system of misceled revenue laws has been in operation, detrimental and blasting to all the other great interests of the country, and maintained at the expense of the general revenue, and to the injury of the great majority of the people, and of those classes—the farmers and laborers—who are least able to bear the burden of oppressive laws."

In relation to the public debt of the country, Mr. Lamar, though coming from a once repudiating State, takes high ground against repudiation in any form. Speaking of this, he says:—

"Owing to the exigencies of one of those great intestine conflicts incident to the life of almost every country, and to a pernicious system of legislation, our people, our business investments, our commerce, and all the diversified interests of the country are suffering from the evils of an irredeemable currency. In meeting and grappling with the difficulties of this vital and perplexing question it will be our duty to take care that nothing is done which would impair the good faith of the country or tarnish the public honor or lower or disturb the credit of our Government, but we are to remove those obstructions which bar and check the prosperity of the American Republic. It is our duty as Democrats, it is our duty and it is to be the glory of the Democratic party while it controls this House, to see that the national debt is paid in full, and that the currency of this Democratic Republic is made equal with that of any nation on the earth."

On the subject of the Constitutional amendments, made since the war, Mr. Lamar's utterances, though sounding well, are a little ambiguous; especially when speaking of restoring "the Constitution to its primitive strength and authority." He nevertheless spreads its provisions quite broadly. Of this he says:—

"The grandest inspiration of the Democratic party is, and its crowning glory will be, to restore the Constitution to its primitive strength and authority and to make it the protector of every section and of every State in the Union and of every human being of every race, color, and condition in the land."

Speaking of the patriotism of the people of the South, the speaker's utterances were eloquent, and were received with a burst of applause. He said:—

"On the other hand, the people of whom I speak, of whom I am one, are here to-day by their chosen representatives, ready to honor any draft which the American nation may draw upon their patriotism or their faith in the glory and the beneficent destiny of American institutions. . . . We want a Government that we can love and revere, and serve from the motive of reverence and love; we hunger for a patriotism which shall knit all the people

together in a generous and loving brotherhood, and which shall be as broad as the territory over which the national flag floats."

Reiterating again, in his conclusion, to the opportunities and responsibilities of the Democratic party in the House, Mr. Lamar made these excellent exhortations to his party friends then before him. Said he:

"Let us seek to renew the prosperity, to advance the greatness and glory of our country. Let us resolve to win the confidence and the affection of the whole American people for our party, by showing them that all its representatives have statesmanship, patriotism and strength of purpose enough to deserve that confidence and affection."

"A renewed prosperity is every where urgently desired. Let us, by removing unjust discriminations, by imposing a rigid economy, by restoring a sound currency, by securing the equal rights of all States and all the people, make the Democratic party the authors of a new prosperity, so we may begin for our party a new and glorious career, in which its history shall be once more, as formerly, the story of the Union's greatest grandeur, and the people's universal happiness and contentment."

Upon the whole, we consider the foregoing a pretty good "confession of faith." Now, the great thing is, to have the members of that political church live fully and faithfully up to their creed.

War Report.

The annual Report of the Secretary of War is before us, and possesses the merit of brevity.

From the Report it appears that our standing army is now twenty-five thousand strong. These are scattered by detachments for guarding the frontiers. The Secretary recommends the enlistment of music boys over twelve years of age, in order to furnish field music to Companies. At present there is not a single authorized band connected with the Army, except the band at the Military Academy at West Point. All other bands are either voluntary or maintained at the expense of the officers and men.

There were 2,521 desertions the past year; and the re-enlistments were 1,998. There are 1,300 laundresses employed, who accompany the troops from post to post. These cost the Government about \$200,000 annually.

During the year 102 signal stations have been maintained for "weather reports," and it is worth knowing that, by a minute examination of these reports, nearly 88 per cent. of these "probabilities" were verified by the event. And of the total number of cautionary signals displayed on lake and sea coast, 76 per cent. have been afterwards reported as justified.

One saddening statement made by the Secretary is, that the total number of interments in National cemeteries up to June 30, 1875, was 808,163. The total number of headstones furnished is 63,112, and the work of supply still progressing.

Under the Act of Congress of last February relief had been extended to sufferers from the ravages of grasshoppers to the extent of 1,957,108 rations, which were issued to 63,593 adults and 43,942 children under twelve years of age.

The defensive works of our seaboard consist no longer of solid masonry, but of heavy earth-batteries, thoroughly protected, and arranged for guns and mortars to resist attacks even from the strongest iron-clads. Torpedoes for harbor defense are approved, as a means of preventing hostile vessels from running by our batteries, and for holding them under fire of our artillery.

The expenditure of the War Department for the fiscal year amounted to \$11,377,375, being \$1,048,940 less than for the year 1874.

One important matter recommended by the Secretary is a complete survey of the Mississippi river. The wonder is that it had not been done long ago. We have naval officers enough doing nothing on high pay. Better set them to work.

Starry.

It has always been a favorite theory among renowned men that their destiny was presided over by some special planetary guidance. The Greek Emperor Constantine, Charles the Bold, Charles of Sweden, Napoleon the Great, each had his "bright particular star" that led him on to greatness and to glory.

Nor has this stellar influence forsaken the modern men of renown. The Hon. MICHAEL C. KERR, now presiding as Speaker of the National House of Representatives at Washington, has also had his "lucky star."—It is known in the Constellation of the Occident as the CINCINNATI EVENING STAR. It was under this STAR that Mr. Kerr's name was first of all proposed for the Speakership, to which high office he has now attained. It was on the last day of October, 1874, that this fortunate conjunction occurred; when the EVENING STAR said this:—

"Should the next National House of Representatives be Democratic, Hon. Michael C. Kerr, of Indiana, will stand a good chance of being Speaker. He is a Western man, has a National reputation, and has not given utterance to any extreme views on the finances that would make him objectionable to the East. There is no public man having a larger acquaintance than he, nor one who would have so few enemies in his own party."

Henceforth let not the influence of the "Stars" be disregarded as affecting the career of distinguished men.

A Paris correspondent mentions the following remark which M. Francois Sarcey, one of the principal theatrical critics, recently made to one of his tormentors. M. Sarcey has rather large ears, and is aware of the fact himself. The other day, an idle fellow, displeased with some of the critic's remarks, alluded to his ears in a manner intended to be playful. "You are right, sir," said Sarcey, without a moment's hesitation; "my ears are rather too large for a man; but you must also agree that yours are decidedly too small for an ass!"

Gone to be redeemed. James Bond, oldest man in Iowa, aged 103 years.

[That Bond has been a long time over- due.]

MY WINDOW ROMANCE.

BY DARD BEST.

"A pair of cuffs, one minus the lining, together with a bursted button-hole; six linen collars, five of 'em frayed, one of 'em entirely pasty; two duck vests, linings to both completely 'fetched loose,' as Mark Twain hath it. Monsieur Florian McIlmsey, throw over your purse and I'll go a shopping!" and Jack laughed as he jammed all my poor, rent garments back into the my dressing-table drawer.

"It's in my trunk—somewhere," said I vaguely, pommeling the musky pillows in a weak, fretful way. My head was not—likewise my temper; besides I was worried about my wardrobe, for I supposed, of course, I'd have to invest my little dwindling pile of fifty lures in some new harness since Jack's invoice had made such a pitiful summing up. You see, I was a gay young dog in those balmy days, in the army, of course, as all the other fellows were, since I had the misfortune to be the second son of Lord and Lady Clanchester, who gave me all they could in bestowing upon me the united blessings and a simple commission. I never got a silver from home, and my pay went about as fast as I did—which is an expressive fact. I could have flourished notwithstanding all that, if chance and an ugly beast of Jack's hadn't thrown me onto my last resources and a boned of pain—for, to be brief, I broke my leg.

That happened just three weeks before Jack rummaged over my wearables, and the reason of his search was in compliance with a request of mine to be got out of that tiresome bed and helped into the back room, where I had had a peep of an open window, with a swaying green bough beyond, and a bit of blue somewhere higher.

"Oh, never mind," said Jack, at last; "I'll cover your rags with this smoking-jacket—smells pretty strong, though, of the Turkish!"

"Bother! Bring it along—I don't mind it. A cigar would be lovely, old fellow; do you think?"

"Of course I do—sometimes, that is. Let me get you over to the window, and if you happen to find—"

Thump! Thump! Thump! Jack opened the door a trifle, and took in a bit of pasteboard. "Gentlemen's washing and ironing solicited," said Jack. "I also mend and done without extra charge. Price per dozen, so much, so much—why, here you are, Clam, and no mistake! Number 1001 So-and-so Terrace—just around the corner, boy—shall I bundle 'em up and send Leggs?" And, without waiting for any affirmative I might have felt like giving him a good kick, but he was so small, and so boy, and after giving him sundry instructions, turned his attention to me.

The rooms which I at that particular time inhabited were a pair of second-story back ones, into which I had been hustled pell-mell with bloody bones and grimy habiliments, and from which I had never seen daylight since. The four walls alone knew the fullest agony I suffered. But to-day Jack, like the sound brick he was, lifted my huge, wasted carcass up, tossed me over, and settled me like a bunch of down in an old sleepy-bowling of a chair close by the open window.

Heaven, the first glimpse I had of the sweet little greenery that spread out its soft foliage before my weary eyes! I shall never forget the rows of bright verbenas that shone bravely along to one side of the clean, narrow gravel path, nor the rich plot of some tropical-leaved thing whose name I never knew; while a geranium plant, all ablaze with fresh pink blossom-clusters, is linked with all my life's romance.

The sun came in and the air, and the noise of town and traffic were somehow swallowed up in a delicious reverie set to living music. What it was I did not at first realize; but, in the course of time, I grew conscious of it as it came from an instrument, and could readily distinguish the touch of fingers upon a piano. Still it was soft and sweet enough to soothe even my convalescent temper, and I should have revelled forever in dreamy state if a shrill voice had not scattered all harmony from my ears and a muscular, gaunt apparition chased me from my eyes—for then—just then—there entered upon my vision an individual whom I have up to present writing never yet banished from it.

It was a tall, awkward, strong individual, with a bright-rimmed, high, French cap, and a short, French petticoat; and, as he came, he looked at me with eyes that were glossier and blacker; his eyes to match; a yellowish shrivelled skin, and a voice that came distinctly up to my window with its cry of—

"Marguerite! Marguerite! Marguerite!"

"Oh, Nance, what news—what news?" queried Jack, in a shrill voice, as he closed under my window that I popped back my head and sat still as a mole.

"Oh, grandel grandel! We hat, at last, a close-pie venen chae nous! Deuz d'ozong, M'amselle—mais, heisel ze nom zae wez wried here—"

"Give it to me! Oh, Nance, think of it, dear! You hat, by heil—ah! And a little sound of muffled sobbing came, and a mixed itself with the rustling leaves at my window-ledge.

"Recall! Ha, ha! Recall? Wit as lecture a forenoon as zat is goin' to come!" And I could almost imagine the noarse bantling only cloaked the tears in the bright black eyes that looked tenderly down at me sobbing "M'amselle."

"Marguerite de nom!"

"Clanchester," came up in soft, tremulous tones; then repeated: "Clanchester—oh, Heaven bless him—our first benefactor!"

"Jack!" yelled I. "Jack! I say—"

"I suppose," I growled, interrupting him, sans ceremony, "I suppose you'd go down and tell her if I said you should?"

"Surely, yes! I'll never get over it, Glan, my taking you out that day—oh, yes, I know you'll say 'twas no real fault of mine; but I persuaded you, boy, and somehow it sticks—"

"Jack, don't. Take my blessing, man, and go down and fix it up with my Lady—she'll not care much one way or other; but a vision of my fond, beautiful, starry mother came before me, and I knew well, when one fleet memory of those love-lit eyes came back to me, why I had kept the matter of my accident so secret. I was her baby, you must know—a baby, though the sword hung at my side and my spurs were broad and golden; and I knew that the news would be agony since she was held at home and could in no way seclude herself at that time from the aristocratic world. So I bade Jack go down to Clanchester and break the news gently. He left his man with me so that I should wait for nothing."

After Jack's departure, I turned to the window again and grew wrath at the morn'g's delay. But I was delighted, at last, to catch sight of a shimmering cloud of veil stuff advancing from the taller shrubbery, and was thrown into an ecstasy when a girlish figure emerged, the arms laden with a little round basket and a bundle of clothes. She came down the white pebbly streak that parted the rank grass and stopped before the tall geranium. I leaned out, never even noticing that my handgrips snapped and my leg writhed, and, as she felt my eyes upon her, her face turned slowly toward me as a flower to the sun—the sweet, deep, gray eyes lifted their cream-white curtains and—

"You are ill?" she asked in child-like innocence, raising her voice a little that it might reach me.

"I have been," I answered, taken aback at her easy self-assurance and utter lack of conventionalism.

"Your face is very thin and pale, and you look as if you were even now in pain."

"True," said I; "you have drawn my attention to the fact that I have moved my bandages. It does hurt a little, I admit," and I tried to keep the knots of frowns from gathering on my forehead.

"Have you any more to fix them?"

"Thank you, yes. You must forgive me for looking down to where your blossoms are, Miss Marguerite."

"Marguerite!"

"I must tell you," said I, smiling in spite of the throbbing wound, "that I overheard you and Nance yesterday."

Such a merry laugh! Up the whitest scale in the world it flew all sharp and trills and arpeggios! "It's so funny—so funny! Why see!" she explained, and held aloft my poor frayed cuffs and collars—my vests sans boutons. "You see, I take in washing—that is, and her voice grew a trifle graver, "I take it when I can get it. My first turn came yesterday, and Oh, it is a ridiculous rag-bag! I bless him with all my soul for being first—poor fellow, poor fellow!"

I was a double-hued rainbow, I know I was; for Jack's man, who came in at this juncture, looked so frightened that I thought it best to obey him and "av a short rest, suit," said I.

"Miss Marguerite, your pardon! I am called away to have some rest. Adieu!" and I waved my hand.

"Good day!" called she, still laughing; and as I turned from the sill a big cluster of the fresh pink geraniums darted into the window and dropped down at my feet.

I stretched all my soul away upon those lovely flowers. Not that they were of delicious fragrance, for in point of fact they were of the fishy odor, and hinted of neglected ponds; but she had touched it—her fingers had manipulated the stem if not the petals, and I had won it completely out by the time Jack came home.

He came in the best of spirits, which was lucky, since for the next few days I was not allowed to move from my bed—tor of course I had to burst, or damage, or otherwise injure a deuced something about my shin bone.

In the interval my washing came home. Jack held the snowy linen aloft and snook the starched collars in triumph over my pillow head, while I bugged my little romance tighter than ever, and let him rave. Another bundled up quantity of soiled linen and a light summer coat, that had been needing several of those stitches in time until the legendary and undisturbed into a long open space under the arm, were dispatched by Leggs.

Then I was tossed over to the window, after a young eternity had set its seal upon my soul, and again I watched for the M'amselle. When she appeared it was with a big bundle of limp clothes on one beautiful bare arm and a bag hung by a string on the other. A big, ugly "fat" kept the sun from kissing her face, and she wrote from her eyes to the sun's caress with answer. She came out to a long white rope that was stretched across over the flower-beds and went up here and there to lat poles only to descend again upon the other side. She hung up all the clothes and went back to the house several times for more. I learned, by attentively watching, that the bag contained forked wooden-pins that held the clothes to their places on the line admirably. At last it came to pass that she advanced to the line in full view of my window. A row of handkerchiefs (a plenty of big, coarse ones) were caught by the wooden pins before she raised her eyes high enough to meet my own.

"Good afternoon," said she, pushing back the hideous sun-hat. "Have you been worse?"

"No," I said, much worse; only I shall have to be more careful hereafter. How are you progressing, Miss Marguerite? Any more 'ridiculous rag-bags' on the list?"

[Continued.]

Experiments recently made in London, in which either oil or glycerine is made to perform the function of steam by the application of heat, are, from their success, exciting no small interest.

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LOUISVILLE AND CINCINNATI SHORT-LINE.
Depot, Front and Kilgour. Time, 4 minutes slow.
Louisville Ex. daily 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.
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Depot, Pearl and Plum. Time, 7 minutes fast.
Park's Express 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.
Park's Ex. daily 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO, VIA COLUMBUS.
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Baltimore Ex. 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.
Baltimore Ex. daily 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO, VIA COLUMBUS.
Depot, Kilgour and Front. Time, 7 minutes fast.
Baltimore Ex. daily 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.
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OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI.
Depot, Mill and Front. Time, 12 minutes slow.
St. Louis & way pints 5:30 A.M. 10:30 P.M.
St. Louis Ex. daily 5:30 A.M. 10:30 P.M.

LOUISVILLE AND CINCINNATI.
Depot, Pearl and Plum. Time, 7 minutes fast.
Louisville Ex. daily 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.
Cincinnati Ex. daily 5:30 A.M. 8:30 P.M.

OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI, VIA SPRINGFIELD.
Springfield & way pints 5:30 A.M. 10:30 P.M.
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CINCINNATI, HAMILTON AND INDIANAPOLIS.
Depot, Fifth and Hoedley. Time, 7 minutes fast.
Indianapolis Ex. 7:30 A.M. 10:30 P.M.
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INDIANAPOLIS AND CINCINNATI.
Depot, Pearl and Plum. Time, 7 minutes fast.
Indianapolis Ex. 7:30 A.M. 10:30 P.M.
Cincinnati Ex. 7:30 A.M. 10:30 P.M.

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